virulence and not by the addition of symptoms due to the destruction of the hepatic cells in which no marked alterations could be observed. This new function of the liver would explain the suddenness and gravity of certain intestinal affections, as dysentery and cholera.—*Universal Medical Journal.*

THE NATURE AND TREATMENT OF GOUT.

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(*From our Austrian Correspondent.*)

This is a problem that may be properly placed under the head of pathology, and to which Claude Bernard has contributed much by his normal physiology which has been demonstrated by him in his laboratory experiments. It is now generally acknowledged that any disturbance in the physiological function of nutrition is a potent factor in the disease. A large number of theories, such as abnormally diminished alkalinity of the blood, high acidity of the urine, a morbid condition of the kidneys, or a disturbed state of the nerve system have all been in turn accused of the morbid condition. It is undeniable that a urate diathesis exists in the gouty condition, but the preceding morbid changes in the physiological disturbance appear to be due to the breaking up of nuclein (C_{29} H_{49} N_9 P_3 O_2) and the formation of alloxurine bodies (C_4 N_2 H_2 O_4). This complex chemical change may be briefly sketched in the following manner:

Nuclein. $=C_{29}$ H_{49} N_9 P_3 O_2 = An Albumenoid Body. Nuclein Acid

= Phophorus Unknown Substance.

= Uric Acid. N_4 H_4 C_5 O_2

Xanthine Basis $= C_4$ H_4 N_4 O_2

This chemical diagram shows the final products of nuclein to be uric acid (C_5 H_4 N_4 O_3), and xanthine bases (C_5 H_4 N_4 O_2), which are comprehended under the term alloxurine bodies, and which has been shown by earlier investigation that a disease of the kidneys and a combination of uric acid increases the elimination of these alloxurine bases. It has been shown that when these bases are found in the urine in other morbid conditions they are characteristic of a nervine inflammation. It would appear from closer examination, however, that in every one of these urate diatheses a greater amount of nuclein is broken up or decomposed, which increases the fragmentary products or lower bodies of the series. We may therefore look on nuclein and its decomposition as the chemical body that produces the characteristic symptoms in gout from a diseased kidney.